



# Blueberry Workshop Will Highlight Production and Economics

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*John Strang, UK Extension horticulture specialist*

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Feb. 19, 2003) – Kentucky farmers can learn more about growing and selling blueberries at a workshop scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Metcalfe County Cooperative Extension Service office.

The workshop is part of the New Opportunity Forums being sponsored jointly by Kentucky Cooperative Extension and the Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (KCADE).

Blueberries are beginning to be recognized as an excellent agricultural diversification crop for some growers. The workshop is designed to provide growers with the basics for establishing a commercial operation.

During the morning, horticulture and marketing specialists with the UK College of Agriculture will speak on a variety of topics, including production, economics, weed control, pest control and irrigation. There also will be a presentation on the Ky. Agricultural Development Fund: Agricultural Diversification Cost-share Program.

In the afternoon, participants will attend a pruning demonstration at Bluegrass Blueberries owned and operated by Larry Martin and Jean Daniels.

"This is the first all-day conference on blueberries we've had," said John Strang, UK Extension horticulture specialist. "We have very few acres of blueberries being grown in the state so this is an excellent opportunity to get in on the ground floor of one of the newer crop and marketing opportunities."

Registration is at 9:30 a.m. CST at the Metcalfe County Extension office located in Edmonton. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. CST. For registration information call Sandy Gardner, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, 502-564-4627, ext. 237, or Darrell Burks, Metcalfe County Cooperative Extension office, 270-432-3561.

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